

## REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6 and 15-18 are allowed. In the Office Action, Claims 7-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 7 and 11 are the rejected independent claims. In the prior Office Action, Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for not having support for a recitation of distributing the parallel data stream and the at least one operator bit equally to the encoders and block coding, and was objected to for an informality regarding the phrase “wherein  $t$  is the number of encoders” which was said to be unclear. The amendment made in response to the Office Action overcame the rejection and objection, and a new rejection has issued.

This Office Action states that the “specification as originally filed does not have support for ‘distributing the parallel data stream and the **at least one operator bit (output from the operator (120) or (1714) to the encoders (1718, 1716) and block coding the distributed data**’ as claimed in claim 7, and ‘plurality of encoders, receiving the parallel data streams and the **at least one operator bit  $Kr+3$** ’ as claimed in claim 11.” (Office Action, page 3, emphasis in original.)

To overcome the rejection, Claims 7 and 11 have been amended to clarify that the at least one operator bit is provided to one of the encoders and is block-coded by one of the encoders, respectively, support for which is found at least at page 15, lines 8-15, and Fig. 7 of the Specification.

In view of the above, it is believed that Claims 7-14 are in condition for allowance. Claims 1-6 and 15-18 have been allowed. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", written over a horizontal line.

Paul J. Farrell

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